



Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Date: THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2025
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Deborah Oliver (Chair)	Steve Goodman OBE
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP (Deputy Chair)	Deputy Christopher Hayward
Tijs Broeke	Shravan Joshi MBE
Deputy Peter Dunphy	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Deputy John Fletcher	Deputy James Thomson CBE
Sarah Gillinson	James Tumbridge

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

3. **MINUTES**

To approve the public minutes of the meeting on 29 May 2025.

For Decision
(Pages 3 - 8)

4. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Report of Executive Director of Community and Children's Services.

For Information
(Pages 9 - 50)

5. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 May 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deborah Oliver (Chair)
Tijs Broeke
Deputy Peter Dunphy
Steve Goodman
Deputy James Thomson
James Tumbridge

Officers:

Richard Riley CBE	- Town Clerk's Department
Charles Smart	- Town Clerk's Department
Raquel Pinto	- Town Clerk's Department
Judith Finlay	- Community & Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services Department
Valeria Cadena	- Community & Children's Services Department
Gavin Stedman	- Environment Department

With James Tumbridge as Chairman until item 4.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Christopher Hayward, Deputy John Fletcher and Deputy Helen Fentimen.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received an Order of the Court of Common Council dated 25th April 2025 appointing the Committee and setting its terms of reference for the ensuing year.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chair in accordance with Standing Order No 28.

RESOLVED – That, Deborah Oliver being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order No 29.

RESOLVED – That, Deputy Helen Fentimen being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, - that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 14 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record, subject to the correction of a typographical error on page eight.

7. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2025 - 2029**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Community and Children's Services which presents the Safer City Partnership Strategy for 2025-2029.

The strategy aimed to ensure the Square Mile remained a safe place to live, work, learn, and visit, by focusing on four priority areas:

1. Violence against women and girls (VAWG)
2. Serious violence
3. Antisocial behaviour
4. Acquisitive crime

Overall, emphasis was placed on prevention, intelligence-led practice, and effective partnerships.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

1. Members expressed concern over the absence of cycling issues in the strategy, in particular dangerous cycling behaviour, bike-enabled phone snatching, and the lack of enforcement and clarity on responsibility. Officers took the feedback on board and explained that a working group on cycling was being established to address these concerns.
2. Phone snatching, often involving bikes or e-bikes, was highlighted as a growing concern amongst Members. Officers explained that Operation Swipe which was a joint initiative with the Metropolitan Police was established to tackle this issue.
3. Members also raised concerns about crimes occurring just outside the City boundary) and the lack of visible coordination with the Metropolitan Police and called for clearer partnership roles and responses in these areas.
4. Reports of fraudulent charity collectors were discussed. Officers noted that the licensing team was actively investigating and prosecuting illegitimate operations.
5. Overall, Members stressed the need for better signage to indicate entry into the City, stronger public messaging and deterrence campaigns and more visible and permanent communication of safety initiatives.
6. Several members felt the strategy lacked clear articulation of partnership roles and outcomes. It was suggested that case studies be used to illustrate successful collaborations, to highlight how different departments

coordinate with each other and to improve internal communication so frontline officers were aware of strategic initiatives

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. **SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2025 - 2029: DELIVERY PLAN AND GROUPS**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Community and Children's Services which presents the Safer City Partnership Strategy for 2025-2029: Delivery Plan and Groups.

Members received a presentation from officers on the delivery of the strategy and the various stakeholders involved.

Members questioned the value of the current report, noting it repeated previous content and lacked clear milestones, deliverables, or impact measures. Officers agreed that an action plan would be brought to the next meeting.

Concerns were also raised about how business feedback was being addressed. Officers confirmed that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) were engaged and open to collaboration, including funding initiatives like taxi marshalling and homelessness support. However, coordination across BID areas remained a challenge.

Members also asked how success would be measured. Officers acknowledged the current lack of analytical capacity but noted that data-sharing protocols were in place and improvements were planned.

Officers gave examples of business engagement which included crime prevention advice through the Destination City programme and a new e-learning tool on domestic abuse for SMEs.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

9. **COMMUNITY SAFETY DELIVERY IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Community and Children's Services detailing the need for an expanded and changed Community Safety function within the City Corporation to respond to changing demands and context, and to mitigate the strategic and operational constraints of the current model.

Members noted that a review found that current resources were insufficient to meet expectations, and funding had been secured to support an additional operational role.

A Member asked to see the full report and whether it included alternative ways of working. Officers confirmed this and added that a bid for more resources had been submitted to the Senior Leadership Team.

Another Member questioned whether businesses could contribute financially, given their responsibility for workers in the Square Mile., whilst the Chair raised concerns about the lack of City representation at cluster meetings to address non-policing issues like graffiti and cycling.

Officers acknowledged these points, noting that while funding was a challenge, the leadership team had been supportive. The current approach was to fund statutory responsibilities internally and seek external support from Business Improvement Districts for additional initiatives. Discussions with the Chamberlain's office remained ongoing.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted.

10. **SERIOUS VIOLENCE SUB-GROUP AND HOTSPOT RESPONSE GRANT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk which provided an update on the Serious Violence Subgroup.

Members were supportive of innovative approaches like "Servator" tactic for disrupting sexual offending in the night-time economy. Officers confirmed this was already funded and being expanded.

Members raised questions about leveraging the £18 million Secure City CCTV platform. Officers acknowledged technical challenges with the system but confirmed that efforts were underway to align CCTV coverage with crime patterns and explore advanced capabilities like facial recognition and pattern detection.

Members emphasised the need to ensure the promised benefits of the Secure City investment were realised and suggested applying pressure to resolve technical issues.

It was noted that community and cycle policing teams were recently expanded, which was welcomed as a positive development.

RESOLVED- that the report be noted

11. **LATE NIGHT LEVY - 12 MONTH REPORT (1 OCT 2023 - 30 SEP 2024)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Environment which provided information relating to the tenth year of operation of the Late Night Levy since its inception since October 2014.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12. **CASTLE BAYNARD, ROUGH SLEEPING AND ENCAMPMENTS**

The Committee received an update from the Executive Director Community and Children's Service.

An update was given on the Castle Baynard rough sleeping encampment. A multi-agency team was addressing antisocial behaviour linked to the site, focusing on safety and support without criminalising homelessness. Actions

included removing fire hazards and working with partners to assess the community impact.

Members asked about understanding and supporting individuals on-site, and Officers confirmed they have detailed knowledge and were offering services. Other areas like Peninsula House were also being monitored, with potential long-term solutions such as design changes under consideration.

13. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 12:22.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Raquel Pinto
Raquel.Pinto@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee	Dated: 6 November 2025
Subject: Safer City Partnership Update	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes• provides statutory duties	Providing Excellent Services Vibrant Thriving Destination
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director
Report author:	Philip Connor, Head of Community Safety (interim)

Summary

This report introduces a presentation to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, to update on the progress and impact of the work of the Safer City Partnership.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The presentation (Appendix 1) provides an update and overview to the Scrutiny Committee of the work of the Safer City Partnership in delivery of the priorities and actions of its strategy (Appendix 2).

2. The Safe City Partnership is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for the City of London. It brings together statutory agencies, known as the Responsible Authorities, and invited and co-opted participants with the role of keeping the Square Mile safe.
3. The Responsible Authorities (Statutory Members) of the SCP are:
 - The City of London Corporation
 - The City of London Police
 - London Fire Brigade
 - NHS North East London Integrated Care Board
 - The National Probation Service – London
4. Invited and co-opted participants include:
 - City of London Crime Prevention Association
 - Safer Business Network
 - City of London Business Improvement Districts
 - City and Hackney safeguarding Adults
 - City and Hackney safeguarding children
5. The SCP Strategy sets out four priorities:
 - Priority #1 – Safer public spaces / ASB
 - Priority #2 – VAWG
 - Priority #3 – SV
 - Priority #4 – Acquisitive crime
6. The SCP also oversees and participates in wider delivery of statutory work such as the PREVENT programme.
7. The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the review and scrutiny of decisions and actions taken by the Safer City Partnership in connection with the discharge of it (and its constituent members') crime and disorder functions. It acts as a critical friend to the Partnership, providing constructive analysis and scrutiny of the Partnership's work and suggestions as to how it might function more effectively in future.
8. Every local authority is required to have in place a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee with power to review and scrutinise, and make reports and recommendations, regarding the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. The power to scrutinise local Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) is granted through a number of pieces of legislation including: The Police and Justice Act 2006, the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Most recently however the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Regulations 2009 (and statutory guidance) has granted local authorities new powers for the scrutiny of crime and disorder and Councillor Call for Action (CCfA).

Current Position

9. The presentation, which will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee, reflects a new approach to managing the business of the SCP and the Scrutiny Committee – moving away from significant reports, in order to focus on key areas of progress and challenge.

10. The presentation highlights key areas of progress including:

Safer Public Spaces

• Encampments:

- Formation of a Joint Working Group and monthly multi-agency Days of Action, resulting in 16 notices served and 14 tents removed to date.
- Development of a register for rough sleepers and a live Teams channel for immediate issue resolution.
- 173 Streetlink referrals and 298 outreach contacts (June–August 2025).
- Standardised protocols and legal processes for enforcement, with White Lion Court progressing to civil action.

• Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):

- Launch of a data sharing project between City Corporation and City Police to improve ASB analysis.
- Staff training initiatives, including Level 2 Diploma and MARAC Chair training.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

• Strategic Progress:

- Quarterly Delivery Group established with new Terms of Reference and strategic/action plans.
- Commissioned Domestic Abuse intervention service trial, with 4 successful interventions (April–June 2025).
- “16 Days of Activism” campaign scheduled for late November to early December 2025.
- Hotel Toolkit under review for improved safeguarding.

• Police Statistics & Hotspots:

- 34% increase in VAWG incidents between June and July; Bishopsgate identified as a persistent hotspot.
- Shifts in peak days/hours for incidents; no reports of rape in August.
- National trends: 10% increase in sexual offences on railways since 2022, with London Bridge as a major hotspot.
- Government announced £20m funding boost for survivor support.

Serious Violence & Acquisitive Crime

• Strategy Delivery:

- Improved sharing of ambulance and hospital data (now available via GLA Safestats).
- Review of uniformed presence and hotspot response in the night-time economy.
- Commissioning of research on licensing and multiagency approaches.
- Analysis of lighting and CCTV coverage in crime hotspots.
- Funding and implementation of the Circles programme for behavioural change in sexual offenders.

- Ongoing review of domestic abuse screening in healthcare settings.
- Assessment of threats from increased footfall under the Destination City programme, with recommendations for pedestrian route safety.
- Risk assessment for violence affecting homeless and rough sleeper communities.
- **Current Overview:**
 - 12-month rolling increase in serious violence (+14.5%), but recent months show better control.
 - Key times for violence: Thursday–Sunday nights; December and November are peak months.
 - Increase partly attributed to changes in robbery recording, not underlying volume.
- **Detailed Insights:**
 - Positive outcomes for serious violence cases overall (19.2%).
 - Night-time economy accounts for 73.6% of violence.
 - Homelessness linked to 5% of serious violence.
 - Sexual violence: 21% of cases, mostly stranger-related.
 - 34 repeat victims and 12 outstanding suspects identified.
- **Acquisitive Crime (Snatch):**
 - Fleet Street Cluster remains the primary hotspot.
 - Seasonal patterns observed, with increases in spring and autumn.
 - Anticipated rise in snatch offences from August 2025 onwards.

Prevent

- Ongoing review of statutory duties with Police and Home Office.
- Channel panel co-location with Westminster Council from November.
- Rollout of staff statutory training platform.

11. The action reflects an strengthened approach to Multi-agency collaboration, and data-driven approaches are yielding tangible reductions in rough sleeping and improved ASB management; Targeted interventions for VAWG and serious violence are backed by strategic planning, new funding, and enhanced data sharing; and proactive risk assessments and strategic reviews are helping the City prepare for future challenges, especially with increased footfall and changing urban dynamics.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. Financial implications: None.

13. Resource implications: None.

14. Legal implications: the City Corporation's Legal team have advised and guided actions taken in delivery of responses to ASB.

15. Risk implications: None.

16. Equalities implications: an Equalities Impact Assessments has been undertaken in relation to enforcement options to tackle ASB.

17. Climate implications: None.

18. Security implications: the work of the SCP provides for a safer City of London.

Conclusion

19. The work of the Safer City Partnership continues to deliver meaningful progress across its priority areas, supported by strong multi-agency collaboration. Ongoing initiatives are helping to reduce, and improve responses to, anti-social behaviour, and address violence and acquisitive crime. These efforts ensure the City remains a safe, vibrant, and inclusive destination for all.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Presentation
- Appendix 2 – Safer City Partnership Strategy

Philip Connor

Head of Community Safety (Interim)

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Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee – Safer City Partnership Update

6th November 2025

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- Priority 2: Violence against Women and Girls
- Priority 3: Acquisitive Crime
- Priority 4: Safer Public Spaces
- Prevent



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Priority 1: Serious Violence

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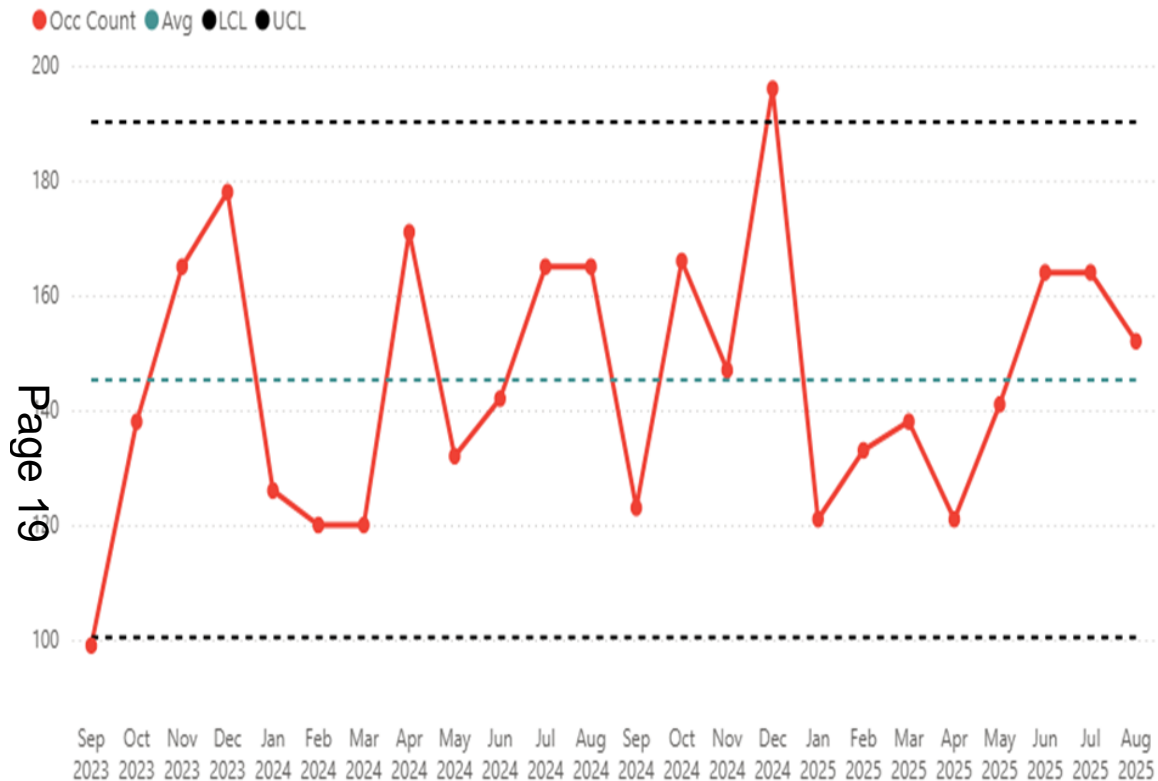


Serious Violence – Delivery of 2025 Strategy

	Measure	RAG rating*	Latest (Sept 2025)
Enabling	Explore options to improve the regular sharing of ambulance callout and hospital admissions data locally	GREEN	Some data now available via GLA Safestats, NHS confirm City must await national change to access others – gone as far as possible
Violence in NTE	Conduct a review of the uniformed presence in the City's night-time economy, incorporating evaluations of our 2024/25 hotspot response initiatives	AMBER	Ongoing within wider City Police neighbourhood policing review
	Commission updated research on the City's licensing landscape and review our multiagency licensing approach in light of its conclusions	RED	Option to do in-house appears unfeasible, Corporation looking at external commission
	Conduct specific analysis of lighting and CCTV coverage in violent crime hotspots, drawing on latest evidence from 2024/25 hotspot response initiatives and data, to inform a refresh of their strategic use as crime prevention tools	AMBER	Initial lighting analysis has been completed, now being refined
Sexual and domestic violence	Aim to fund a trial of the Circles programme to provide behavioural change interventions for sexual offenders and suspects	GREEN	Funded and being implemented
	Review the coverage of screening for domestic abuse in City healthcare settings, both to assess scope for improvement and to make sure that incidents are not being under-reported	GREEN	DA screening arrangements confirmed to be in place and links made to Corp DA referral pathways
Threats from changing City	Make a detailed assessment of potential threats and mitigations associated with increased footfall ambitions under the City of London Corporation's Destination City programme	AMBER	Meeting being arranged to compare & discuss Corp and CoLP footfall projections
	Deliver specific recommendations to the Destination City programme on how new pedestrianised routes can be designed to reduce violence	AMBER	Publica 'Right to the City' report recommendations reviewed, to be overlaid with lighting analysis (as above) + City Police input
	Conduct a brief risk and threat assessment of serious violence affecting homeless and rough-sleeper communities in the City	AMBER	Initial analysis has been completed but needs to progress further before group review



Serious Violence – Current overview



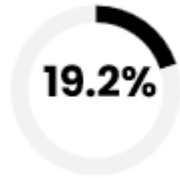
- The last update in June showed a 12 month rolling change at +14.5%, with the rate of increase remaining stable +14.1%. However, the last 8 months show less variability in volumes suggesting better control over levels of violence.
- Key months for serious violence continue to be December followed by November, with the Christmas campaign plans underway.
- Key times continue to be Thursday – Sunday in the night-time economy.
- A significant part of the increase is believed to be technical changes to the recording of robberies, not increase in underlying volume.



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Serious Violence - In detail

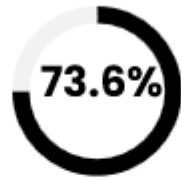
POSITIVE OUTCOMES



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Positive outcomes for serious violence offences remain stable overall, particularly for violence against the person and robbery offences. Reducing rate for positive outcomes linked to sexual offending.

NIGHTTIME ECONOMY



There is a 1.4% decrease in the proportion of serious violence occurring in the nighttime economy (still reducing), but predominantly **this continues to be largest thematic linked to serious violence and should be where resources are focused**

ROUGH SLEEPING & BEGGING



5% of SV is linked to homelessness, only 2 occurrences of begging linked to SV. This could be where the victim or the offender is identified as homeless. **National research shows a high % of the homeless population experience SV and its likely underreported**

SEXUAL VIOLENCE



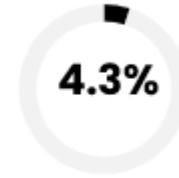
21% of SV is linked to sexual violence (-2% since June). 4% of sexual violence offences are domestic related, showing that the majority are non-domestic related (1% of overall SV). **62% of sexual offences are stranger related and 29% are acquaintances. Average of 14-15 occurrences a month.**

REPEAT VICTIMS



There are **34 repeat victims**, who have experienced **110 serious violence offences** (4%). Very low chance of being a repeat victim of serious violence. Majority of repeat victims are staff who work at business locations when identifying thefts/robbery's

OUTSTANDING SUSPECTS



Out of all suspects/offenders identified (492) there are **12 outstanding suspects** across 20 crimes (this has reduced from 22 outstanding suspects). 44 (9%) suspects/offenders are repeat offenders

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Priority 2: VAWG

age 2+

Violence against Women and Girls

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VAWG

- Quarterly Delivery Group in place with new Terms of Reference, strategic implementation plan and action plan signed off.
- Commissioned DA intervention service 12-month trial under regular review.
 - 4 referrals leading to 4 interventions (April – June 2025).
- 16 Days of Activism – 25th November – 10th December 2025.
- Hotel Toolkit under review.

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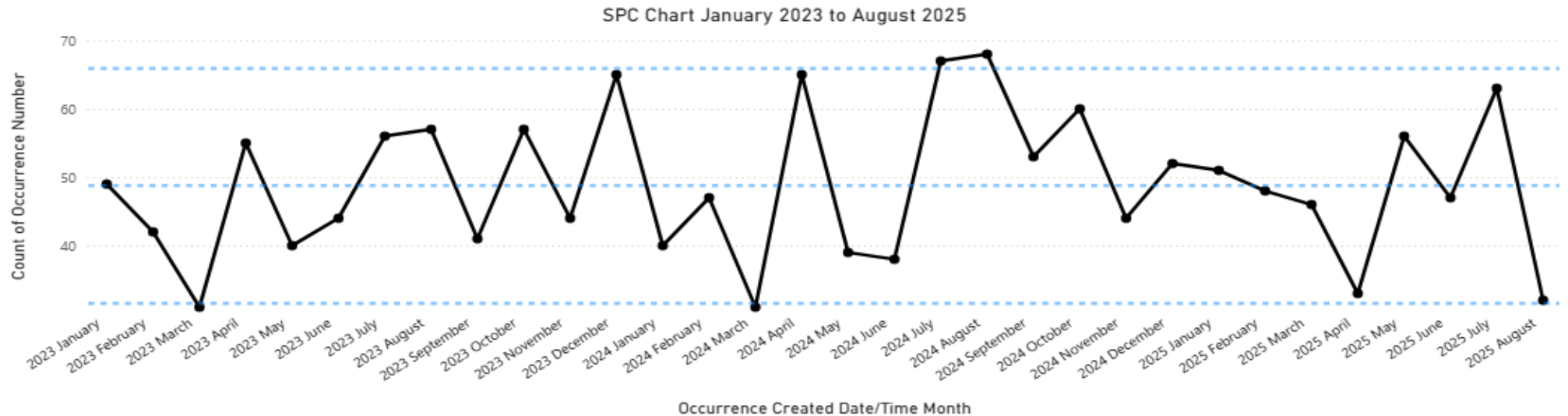


VAWG - Police statistics

55

Occurrences over the previous 4 weeks.

This is line with the average.



Looking Back

- Key Findings:
 - There was a 34% increase in VAWG incidents between June and July.
 - Bishopsgate remains the hotspot.
 - Wednesday is a peak day, compared to Friday last month.
 - Peak hours have changed from 00:00 and 18:00 hours to 23:00 hours.
 - No reports of Rape so far in August, compared to 1 in July.

Looking Forward

- The number of VAWG incidents have fluctuated, but overall incidents in the summer sit between the average and the UQ.
- A 2024 report from BTP has recorded a 10% increase in Sexual Offences on the railway since 2022. London Bridge recorded the second highest number of incidents, which sits on the City's border.
- The Government has announced a £20m funding boost to expand support for survivors of domestic violence. This increased level of support could lead to a decrease in the need for Police.

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VAWG - Police hotspots

Six streets made up 25% of all VAWG incidents.

27 streets made up 50% of all VAWG incidents.

Old Bailey – Thursday 13:00 – 14:59 hours

New Change – Sunday 17:00 hours

Cheapside – Wednesday 14:00 – 16:59 hours

Poultry – Tuesday 20:00 – 22:59 hours
Thursday – No peak hours

Eastcheap – Friday 23:00 – 00:59 hours

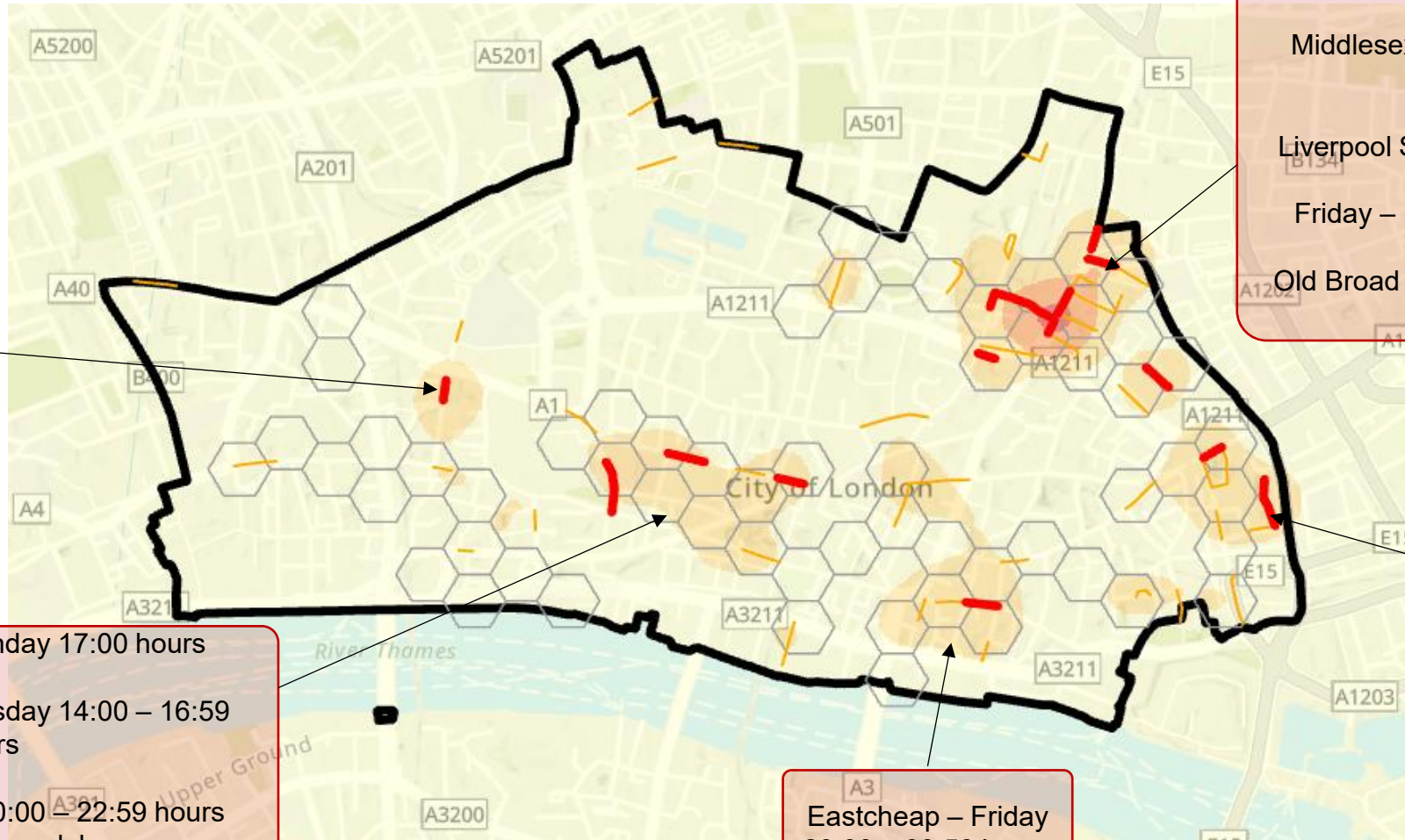
Bishopsgate – Saturday 23:00 – 00:59 hours

Middlesex Street – Friday 00:00 hours

Liverpool Street – Thursday 17:00 hours
Friday – 19:00 and 00:00 hours

Old Broad Street – Saturday 23:00 hours

Aldgate High Street – Monday 22:00 – 00:59 hours



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Priority 3: Acquisitive Crime

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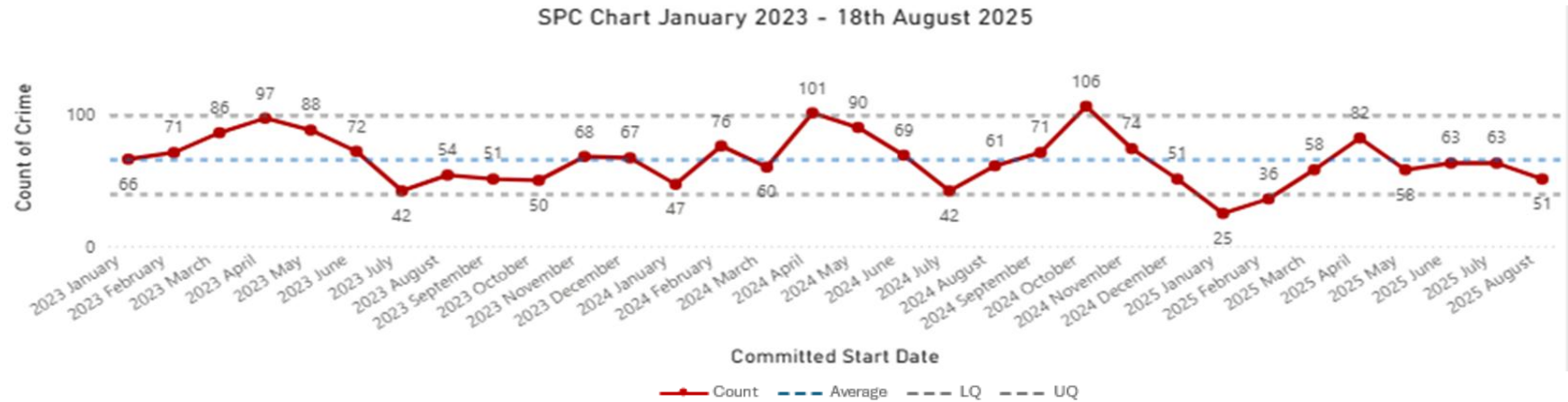


Acquisitive Crime - Snatch

80

Occurrences over last 4 weeks

The figure for July is sitting on the average line as it has done since May 2025.



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Looking Back – Highlights from Previous Month

Key Findings:

- The Fleet Street Cluster remains the primary hotspot for July, Within this cluster, the most affected streets were FLEET ST and LUDGATE HILL.
- Peak day shifted from Wednesdays in June to Thursdays in July, with 28% of incidents occurring on this day.
- Peak hours remain consistent, with 12% of snatches occurring between 11PM-12AM.

Looking Forward

- There may be possible seasonal patterns in snatch offences. Increases were observed in April 2023, April 2024 which falls in Spring & Oct 2024 which falls in Autumn. These seasons typically see more people outdoors due to milder weather potentially increasing snatch offences.
- In contrast, decreases were seen in Jan 2023 and Jan 2025 in Winter and July 2023 in Summer. The drop in July may be linked to summer holidays, with fewer commuters. Snatch figures are on the rise for August, however from looking at figures from the previous year there is an increase from September onwards, so we can prepare for a rise in snatch offences from August 2025 onwards.

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Priority 4: Safer Public Spaces

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Safer Public Spaces - Encampments

- Joint Working Group formed in June and embedded with partners.
- Monthly multi-agency days of action:
 - Register of all rough sleepers being developed.
- 5th monthly partnership Day of Action took place 3rd September.
- 16 Notices served, 14 tents removed to date.
- Live partner Teams channel tackling immediate and emerging issues.
- 30 tents across encampment spaces.

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Safer Public Spaces - Encampments

- 173 Streetlink referral made (June – August 2025)
- 298 points of contact by Outreach team (June – August 2025)

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Chain Quarterly Report in July 2025 states a total of 259 rough sleepers (April – June 2025)

- Reduction of 39 on previous year.



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Safer Public Spaces - Encampments

- Standardised protocols being designed in partnership.
- Removal and storage of items overseen by operational steering group.
- Legal services engaged to develop proportionate enforcement process.
- White Lion Court currently being progressed to civil legal action.



Safer Public Spaces - ASB

- Data sharing project commenced – improving ASB data and analysis between City Corporation and City Police.
- Training:
 - ASB & Community Safety Level 2 Diploma, 18 staff and partners.
 - Problem-oriented Policing – Police and Community Safety Team.
 - MARAC Chair & Co-Chair Training completed by all relevant staff.



Prevent

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Prevent

- Review of statutory duties taking place with Police and Home Office.
- Policy and Partnership Plan to be revised on completion of Review.

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Channel panel being co-located with Westminster Council from November.

- Staff statutory training platform rolled out.



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Questions / Comments

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City of London Safer City Partnership

Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029

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Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029

Executive Summary

The Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025–2029 sets out a clear and practical plan to make the City of London a safer and more welcoming place for everyone who lives, works, or spends time here. Building on what has worked well in the past, the strategy also looks ahead to tackle new and emerging challenges.

The strategy focuses on our top priorities:

- reducing violence against women and girls
- safer public spaces
- serious violence, and
- acquisitive crime.

Our response and work in relation to these priorities will be taken forward by dedicated multi-agency subgroups - defining and delivering specific actions and clear goals to help us measure progress.

Our progress will be enabled by the principles of the Safer City Partnership: working together, using evidence to guide decisions, being inclusive, and always looking for ways to improve. These principles help ensure that our efforts are effective, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our communities.

This strategy is underpinned by a shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI). We recognise that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities.

The Safer City Partnership Board will oversee the delivery of this strategy. It brings together both statutory and non-statutory partners. This joined-up approach is essential—no single organisation can do it alone. By working in partnership, we can share knowledge, coordinate our efforts, and make a bigger impact.

The strategy aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, boost public confidence in safety measures, and build stronger, more resilient communities. Regular use of data and evaluation will help us stay on track and adapt as needed.

Keeping our communities safe is a shared responsibility. This strategy reflects our commitment to working together to create a City where everyone feels secure and supported.

Introduction - A Partnership Strategy

The Safer City Partnership is committed to making the City of London a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for everyone—whether you live here, work here, study, or are just visiting. By working together, we tackle crime, reduce disorder, and support those who are most vulnerable. Our joint efforts will benefit the whole community.

This strategy provides a shared framework that reflects the contributions and priorities of all our partners. It recognises the vital role each organisation plays in keeping the City safe—whether through early intervention, public protection, or prevention. It also helps align our work across sectors, encourages shared ownership of the 2025–2029 strategy, and strengthens how we coordinate frontline services across the Square Mile.

It is also underpinned by commitment to equalities that reflects the City Corporation’s Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and the shared commitment of our partnership to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI).

The Safer City Partnership brings together a range of statutory members and non-statutory partners, each offering unique expertise. Statutory partners include:

- **City of London Corporation** – Leading on community engagement and service delivery
- **City of London Police** – Providing enforcement and intelligence
- **NHS North East London Integrated Care Board** – Tackling health-related vulnerabilities
- **National Probation Service – London** – Supporting rehabilitation and reducing reoffending
- **London Fire Brigade** – Contributing to safety planning and emergency response

Beyond these core members, we work closely with a wide network of partners (including the City of London Crime Prevention Association and representatives from Square Mile Business Improvement Districts). Together, we form a strong, united front to address the City’s community safety challenges.

A condensed version of this Strategy, providing a single-page view of our approach, can be found at Appendix A. You can find examples of our work - demonstrating the strength this partnership approach in action - in our case studies (Appendix B).

This Strategy underpins the operational activity taking place across the City until 2029. Examples of key deliverables have been collated and will provide the basis for measuring the success of the Strategy.

Our previous strategy (2022–2025) laid the groundwork for this collaborative approach. It focused on improving joint responses to crime and vulnerability, delivering better outcomes for victims, and creating safer, more inclusive spaces across the City. That strategy helped drive targeted action on key issues like anti-social behaviour, serious violence, violence against women and girls, hate crime, reoffending, and safeguarding. For highlights of what we achieved during that period, see Appendix C.

Safer City Partnership Priorities

The Safer City Partnership has identified four priority areas that are of critical importance. These areas have been determined based on insights from a strategic assessment of issues, partner and community engagement events such as panels and City Question Time, as well as the statutory duties outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. As such, these priorities reflect the shared work and responsibilities of partners across the Safer City Partnership, with responsibilities and delivery shared by partners.

The priorities have been developed with reference to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ensuring the priorities identified are grounded in available evidence and align with statutory needs for community safety.

Each of the strategy's Priorities is led by a multi-agency subgroup of statutory and non-statutory partners that will define and deliver a discrete action plan. These action plans set out specific operational activities led by relevant partners across the City of London.

Priority 1 – Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty, introduced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, places a legal obligation on Authorities to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence in their areas. The approach is intended to be preventative and evidence-led, with flexibility for local adaptation depending on the nature and scale of violence in each area.

The City of London has, through the Safer City Partnership, developed a Serious Violence Duty Strategy (original strategy [here](#) and 2025 refresh [here](#)) that sets out the action that will target threats and vulnerabilities to reduce serious violence in the Square Mile.

Under this strategy, the Safer City Partnership will focus on reducing violence in the night-time economy, reducing sexual and domestic violence, and identifying and mitigating threats and risks from a changing City. The strategy documents linked above set out governance, reporting and performance monitoring arrangements, collaborative work with local partners, and how this work will be co-ordinated by the Partnership.

We will deliver to this priority by:

- Conducting built environment reviews in high-risk areas

- Conduct a risk and threat assessment of serious violence affecting homeless communities
- Provide training for all agencies on new relevant legislation, including the AntiSocial Behaviour and Crime Act 2025
- Funding a trial of the Circles Programme, targeting behavioural change in sexual offenders
- Providing training and support to hotels on vulnerability and exploitation

Priority 2 – Violence Against Women and Girls

Due to the relatively small number of residents, reported incidents of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse (DA) against residents are low. This is countered by the extremely high transient and worker footfall, resulting in incidents of misogyny and sexual harm occurring within the City of London area to those who live elsewhere.

These unique circumstances require a strong partnership model to ensure anyone experiencing sexual violence, harm or misogyny is supported both within the City of London and by their own Local Authority. It also requires the Partnership to take steps to reduce harm originating with those living or working in the locality.

By co-ordinating a swift and sensitive response to reported incidents through robust governance, ensuring effective communication both within the Square Mile and with external Boroughs and partners, and delivering training and tools to partners and businesses the Partnership aims to reduce the occurrences of, and harm caused by VAWG and DA.

We will deliver to this priority by:

- Strengthening community and partner awareness through a co-ordinated communications and engagement plan to promote services, understanding, risks, issues and behaviour change, and engage businesses through the work of City of London Crime Prevention Association
- Promoting and delivering training to professionals and community partners, to businesses, licensed premises and hotels - such as WAVE and Ask for Angela - to help staff recognise and respond to vulnerabilities
- Improving the collection, sharing and assessment of data to deliver targeted and intelligence-led interventions

Priority 3 – Acquisitive Crime

Acquisitive crime accounts for a significant share of crime in the City of London. Theft and burglary figures reflect the highly transient nature of the population. The SCP recognizes

such incidents can erode perceptions of safety and public trust, and we are committed to working in partnership to reduce these incidents and the harm associated with them.

An Intelligence-led approach, as outlined in the Policing Plan 2025 and with a strong partnership focus, will look to address these issues. The SCP will receive reports as to the progress against the Policing Plan, and will support the resourcing and delivery of effective communication and partnership projects

We will deliver to this priority by:

- Conducting intelligence-led operations in acquisitive crime hotspots
- Developing processes for reporting retail crime offences with retailers and partners
- Raising public awareness about acquisitive crime and encouraging people to be more vigilant
- Delivering planned awareness campaigns targeting specific recurring issues or communities, such as students returning, festive celebrations and phone snatching

Priority 4 – Safer Public Spaces

Creating safer public spaces means recognising, addressing and removing opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Antisocial behaviour (ASB) remains a national focus due to the disruption it causes to individuals and communities. The Safer City Partnership aligns to the national approach to targeting ASB, through multi-agency working, intelligence-led case management, and proportionate use of the legal tools and powers available to partners. Safe and resilient public spaces help instil confidence in the City of London as a safe and prosperous place to live and work.

We will deliver this priority by:

- Developing opportunities for policing and local authority services to co-locate, to build closer working relationships and to allow for swifter problem-solving.
- Developing sensitive and proportionate responses to ASB related to street homelessness encampments and hotspots
- Designing and delivering consistent messaging across the Square Mile regarding acceptable behaviour and reporting pathways

Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This strategy is underpinned by the City Corporation's Equality Objectives 2024–2029 and our shared commitment to equity, equality, diversity, and inclusion (EEDI). We recognise that safety and the perception of safety are not experienced equally across communities.

Through this strategy, the Safer City Partnership will work to make sure that all residents, workers, and visitors—regardless of identity, background or circumstance—feel seen, heard, and safe.

The Safer City Partnership will:

- continue to engage with the EEDI team and draw on their expertise to strengthen inclusive practice across our work, ensuring that our involvement, data use, and service provision are accessible, representative, and responsive to the diverse needs of our communities.
- make sure that involvement and decision-making structures reflect the City's diversity and include underrepresented voices
- work with partners to disaggregate data and gather qualitative insight to understand and respond to the diverse experiences of City communities.
- make sure that campaigns, training and interventions are designed with accessibility, inclusion, and representation in mind, and are provided in ways that reflect the City's diversity.

Strategic Principles and Application

The delivery of this Strategy is guided by three Principles:

- effective and accountable
- evidence and intelligence led
- prevention focussed

These Principles will be applied across the work of the existing Safer City Partnership groups and Safer City Partnership partners. See Appendix B for examples of this in action.

These principles are in line with the outcomes from the Home Office's national '*Community Safety Partnerships Review (2023)*', which sought to improve transparency, accountability, and effectiveness.

They echo the ambition of the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024–2029 to provide excellent services, fostering diverse and engaged communities, and ensuring the City of London remains a safe and thriving destination, and the vision of the City of London Policy Plan to provide a trusted and inclusive police service, keeping the City of London safe.

"Addressing safety challenges through strong, effective partnerships."

Principle 1: Effective and accountable partnerships

The Safer City Partnership applies this principle across all four of the strategy's priorities and their related action plans, supporting partners through governance, coordination, oversight, and public involvement. The partnership will add value by clarifying responsibilities, connecting partners, and strengthening communication.

Key Enablers

- Coordinating messaging and joint involvement with focus area leads
- Using existing outreach networks to support providers
- Clarifying roles across SCP, City Corporation, and City Police
- Promoting shared public involvement activities
- Providing regular updates to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

Principle 2: Evidenced and intelligence-led action

The Safer City Partnership is strengthening its intelligence-led provision by embedding analytical functions across its partnership structure. Notably, a part-time analyst via Proceeds of Crime Act funding has been placed within the Safer Business Network, tasked with mapping VAWG-related crime data and supporting quarterly reporting to the VAWG Delivery Group. Their work supports the development of targeted training, resource allocation, and the identification of high-risk locations or times.

In parallel, the Community Safety Team is developing a complete Anti-Social Behaviour Data Exchange Protocol, which aligns data from the City of London Police, Housing Teams, Port Health, Licensing, City Operations, and Homelessness Services. This integrated dataset will enable better trend analysis, identify unmet needs, and support a multi-agency response to patterns of vulnerability and harm across the Square Mile.

Key Enablers

- Creating a shared data repository for key partners
- Reviewing and enhancing data sharing agreements
- Using mapping and analytics tools to support decision-making
- Embedding performance tracking in thematic action groups
- Commissioning shared intelligence products across focus areas

Principle 3: Prevention-focused interventions

The Safer City Partnership will champion this principle by increasing the visibility of prevention actions, coordinating communications, and aligning partner efforts to maximise public effect. It will support the success of prevention work and interventions through system-wide alignment.

Key Enablers

- Coordinating behaviour change campaigns with key partners
- Supporting public involvement through shared channels
- Highlighting needs for environmental improvements such as lighting and CCTV
- Providing or promoting relevant training for front-line and NTE staff
- Partnering with commissioned services to provide early interventions

Governance and Implementation

Accountability

The Safer City Partnership will oversee regular update reports to the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee to review performance, focus on results and hold partners accountable. Regular updates will also be made to bodies with membership that will support the Safer City Partnership in achieving its results. These include the Police Authority Board, Integrated Care Board, City of London Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community and Children's Services Committee, and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

Diversified resources

The Safer City Partnership will seek - and prioritise the use of - additional funding streams, such as grant funding and government funding programmes, to support the delivery of the strategy's priorities. It will also work with wider partners such as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and the City of London Crime Prevention Association to align their resources and activity to enhance impact and outcome.

Delivering the Strategy

Each Safer City Partnership sub-group will be responsible for translating the priorities of this strategy into detailed operational plans.

These plans will:

- Identify specific actions from this strategy relevant to their focus area.
- Set clear milestones, outputs, and outcome measures.
- Apply the principles of partnership, prevention, and intelligence-led action.
- Outline how performance will be monitored and reported to the SCP Board.

Progress updates will be provided by the Steering Groups to the Community Safety Steering Group, and then to the Safer City Partnership quarterly. A shared reporting template will be introduced to support consistency and transparency across providers and sub-groups.

Sub-groups will complete progress reports to be shared with the Safer City Partnership Board, public partners, and co-opted participants. Reports should highlight achievements, challenges, and describe the next steps.

The Safer City Partnership will track whether actions are reaching and benefiting all groups, particularly those most at risk or marginalised. Community feedback, lived experience, and frontline insight will be used alongside quantitative data to understand effect. Any significant service change or newly commissioned activity will be assessed using the City

Corporation's Equality Impact Assessment process to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and best practice in inclusive service design.

Communication and engagement

The Safer City Partnership is committed to ensuring that this strategy and associated materials are accessible and inclusive. We will work to make sure that content is available in plain language and appropriate formats, and that messages are tested through involvement with a diverse range of partners.

Our public-facing materials will include a clear commitment to equity, equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring transparency and reinforcing our shared ambition to be a partnership that serves and reflects the needs of all City communities. The Safer City Partnership will also strengthen collaboration with the Corporate Strategy and Performance Campaigns and Engagement team to embed inclusive design and messaging into communications and make sure that all communities are reached and represented.

The Safer City Partnership also recognises the expertise of the Corporation's EEDI team and will continue to draw on their guidance to embed inclusive practice across all areas of work.

How consultation shaped this strategy

This strategy has been shaped by public and stakeholder consultation carried out in spring 2025. Input gathered from across the City's communities helped test the strategy's priorities and identify opportunities to strengthen alignment, clarify responsibilities, and improve service provision.

The feedback received informed refinements to the final strategy, ensuring it reflects local insight, supports better coordination between partners, and places greater emphasis on transparency, inclusion, and community confidence.

Conclusion

This Safer City Partnership Strategy 2025-2029 provides a clear roadmap for fostering safety, inclusion, and resilience in the City of London. By focusing on prevention, collaboration, and intelligence-led actions, this strategy aims to create a safer, more secure environment for all who live, work, and visit the City of London.

APPENDIX A: Strategy on a page

(This page currently under design)

APPENDIX B: Partnership work case studies

Safe Havens for Night-Time Safety

Business and charity collaboration to support vulnerable people in distress

The City of London Police and Our Safer City established over 50 accredited Safe Haven venues in the Square Mile. Staff at these locations—ranging from pubs and offices to libraries and cultural venues—are trained to support people experiencing fear, harassment or vulnerability, and can offer refuge, phone charging, and help accessing emergency services.

The scheme, supported through POCA funding and SCP grants, complements City-wide efforts to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and reduce harm in the night-time economy. Participating venues display the Safe Haven logo and are connected to police awareness campaigns and the Safe Havens app.

VAWG Business Engagement Officer

Embedding prevention in workplace culture

This role exemplifies SCP's commitment to embedding prevention across City systems—including the workplace—by equipping local businesses to act as frontline responders to risk and vulnerability.

With SCP funding via the City of London Crime Prevention Association, a dedicated Business Engagement Officer was recruited by the Safer Business Network to lead on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) outreach. The role supports delivery of WAVE, Ask for Angela, and bystander awareness training across the City's business community.

Between October 2023 and April 2025, the officer engaged over 380 businesses and delivered training to 366 individuals. In addition to promoting the Safe Havens network, they coordinate data sharing and lead public awareness surveys to inform strategic response. This partnership ensures businesses remain active stakeholders in preventing harassment, violence and exploitation in the Square Mile.

Cycle Medics in the Night-Time Economy

Business-funded medics reduce pressure on emergency services

In partnership with the Eastern City BID, City of London Police, and NHS providers, the Safer City Partnership co-funded the deployment of cycle medics in high-footfall night-time areas. Operating Thursday to Saturday nights, the medics support intoxicated or injured individuals and relieve pressure on frontline services.

Between November and December 2023, the team supported **136 individuals**, preventing an estimated **58 ambulance call-outs**. A new two-year commitment ensures continued deployment of medics on Thursday nights and during peak periods, enhancing visible safety while building trust with the public and licensed venues.

Building Bridges – Cross-Borough Safety in Action

Strategic alignment through cross-boundary intelligence and joint operations

The Safer City Partnership has enhanced its evidence-led approach through formal collaboration with neighbouring boroughs and enforcement partners. A standout example is the Building Bridges initiative (2023–2025), funded by the Home Office’s Safer Streets Fund. This project brought together the City of London Corporation, Westminster, Southwark, and Lambeth Councils, alongside the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London Police, HMRC, and the Safer Business Network, to tackle organised crime and anti-social behaviour across eight of London’s busiest bridges.

Key impacts include:

- **58 arrests and 47 prosecutions** of unlicensed traders and repeat offenders
- Creation of **London’s first cross-borough public–private data sharing agreement**
- Deployment of joint patrols and six **multi-agency ‘days of action’**
- **230+ frontline staff** trained in safeguarding, ASB response, and enforcement
- Targeted use of **forensic property marking** to deter moped-enabled phone thefts

The initiative demonstrates the power of **intelligence-led, multi-borough collaboration** in tackling persistent urban crime and maintaining public confidence in high-risk spaces. It also reinforces the SCP’s role in convening partners to share learning, align strategies, and coordinate responses beyond the Square Mile.

APPENDIX C: SCP Strategy 2022 – 2025 Achievements

SAFER CITY PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS 2022–2025 – AT A GLANCE	
TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) AND CRIME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered a city-wide ASB and neighbourhood crime implementation plan. Strengthened police collaboration through initiatives like Operation Luscombe. Introduced and expanded ParkGuard CSAS powers for community reassurance. Ran Safe Street campaigns and targeted resident communications. Improved resident engagement by refreshing Cluster Panels. Reformed the Community Multi-Agency Assessment Conference (CCM) for place-based ASB referrals. Upgraded City surveillance with 4K digital cameras. 	REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered the VAWG Action Plan with measurable outcomes. Launched a quarterly VAWG Forum to drive coordination. Expanded Safe Haven Spaces to 35+ venues, including all Corporation buildings. Delivered impactful public campaigns and support services, including taxi marshals and counselling. Led Operation Reframe with the police and key stakeholders. Delivered WAVE and Ask Angela training across hospitality venues. Reviewed and implemented the Sanctuary Scheme for domestic abuse victims at risk of homelessness.
ADDRESSING SERIOUS VIOLENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published the first Serious Violence Strategy under SCP leadership. Strengthened links with the business and voluntary sectors (e.g., Safer Business Network). Used Operation Reframe as a joint action hub. Improved multi-agency intelligence sharing to disrupt violence. Delivered Operation Vigilant, boosting NTE patrols and training officers to prevent sexual offences. 	TACKLING DISCRIMINATION AND HATE CRIME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched dedicated hate crime reporting tools and a public webpage. Hosted Victim Support drop-in sessions to raise awareness among staff. Ran public hate crime awareness campaigns. Promoted hate crime awareness through events like the Licensing Forum. Introduced a new risk assessment model to ensure robust and victim-centred investigations.
REDUCING REOFFENDING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group with Hackney. Strengthened joint working with probation and MAPPA partners. Piloted diversion pathways (e.g., Divert London) to address perpetrator behaviour and reduce repeat offending. 	SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully integrated into the City and Hackney Safeguarding Partnerships. Produced specialist resources to support professionals in safeguarding cases (e.g. CSE). Improved referral pathways and response times. Delivered Operation MakeSafe in hotels and trained staff on risks including drink spiking and exploitation. Held joint strategic sessions between CoLP and safeguarding leads.

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